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# STAR WARS™

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44

# OWEN LARS' SWOOP BIKE

***Moisture farmer's high-speed desert transport***

*Cliegg Lars*

*Tatooine moisture farm*

LUCAS BOOKS

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STAR WARS

# "I WON'T BE LONG."

## ANAKIN SKYWALKER

The Zephyr-G swoop was produced by Mobquet Swoops and Speeders around 30 years before the outbreak of the Clone Wars. Designed as a racing bike, it could be converted for more practical use.

# OWEN LARS' ZEPHYR-G

## CLIPPED WINGS

**It is a testament to the character of Owen Lars that he bought an old racing swoop, the Mobquet Zephyr-G, and then converted it for the more mundane tasks that he revelled in around the family moisture farm on Tatooine. Others of his age would have delighted in the Zephyr-G's racing pedigree.**

Choice was not something that poorer Tatooine farmers had much of. That was why the swoop bike that Owen Lars bought at auction on a trip to Mos Nytram was almost the antithesis of his own personality. The Revwien auctioneer had assured him the Zephyr-G's frame was solid enough to withstand conversion into a bike more suiting his needs, but Owen Lars left the auction on a bike that was the envy of many of the young men and women he rode past on the way home. They considered it the very latest in swoop technology; an irony in itself considering the bike was already over 20 years old by the time Owen took ownership.

### Sporty

Mobquet Swoops and Speeders designed the Zephyr-G for the entry-level swoop sports enthusiast. Costing a little under 6000 credits new, it devalued quickly and could be picked up secondhand for a paltry 1500 credits. Such swoops were very popular, becoming a mainstay of swoop racing's amateur and semi-pro leagues – as well as illegal races – for a long time before the Zephy-G percolated out to the

Outer Rim Territories. The sturdy chassis supported the typically basic swoop components. A bulky looking dual-compartment fuel tank dominated the front of the bike, just in front of the rider. The long forward prongs mounted very standard steering vanes. The bike had rear steering vanes, but these were of limited value. Real swoop riders knew that their riding position and the way they used their body weight – not to mention balancing the spread of the repulsor effect from the lift array set under the seat – was more important than the front vanes for steering a speeding swoop.

## Owen's Modifications

Unlike more basic swoops and speeder bikes, the Zephyr-G had controls that allowed riders to make minute adjustments to the fuel mix and the repulsor balance entirely manually as they rode. Expert pilots tinkered with these almost subconsciously, trimming the performance for maximum speed. Owen Lars ensured that his swoop was set for maximum fuel efficiency over anything else, meaning his bike rarely hit its 350km/h top speed. Owen didn't need a racing bike – the very thought filled him with near-outrage. Swoop racing was a dangerous waste of time but he appreciated being able to fit two heavy panniers to the rear of the bike, each able to carry 50kg. Tow cable fixing points allowed Owen to drag heavier supplies.

# THE SEARCH

## ANAKIN'S DARK JOURNEY

**Anakin Skywalker had been having bad dreams about his mother, Shmi, for a long time before they finally pushed him to act. Though initially reluctant to do so, he travelled from Naboo to Tatooine with his beloved Padmé Amidala.**

Anakin's first discovery on Tatooine was positive. His mother was no longer Watto's slave. The Toydarian (once Anakin's owner, too) had sold Shmi to a moisture farmer Cliegg Lars, who had freed and married her. Watto gave Anakin the details of where Cliegg Lars lived. At the Lars moisture farm, where Anakin met his stepfather Cliegg and his half-brother Owen, he learned the terrible news that his mother had been kidnapped by Sand People a month earlier. They had little hope that she still lived. Anakin, however, could feel her pain through the Force and knew Shmi was alive. He borrowed Owen's Zephyr-G swoop bike and set off into the Tatooine desert.

### Hunting Tuskens

It was the work of moments for Anakin to trim the controls on the Zephyr-G, allowing it to deliver the maximum speed it could produce. Later, it would take Owen far, far longer to restore the bike to his

**"Something terrible has happened. Young Skywalker is in pain. Terrible pain."**

**Master Yoda**

favoured fuel-efficient settings. Anakin searched for a long time, making full use of the swoop's considerable 3000km range, picking up fuel and information from the Jawa traders and other desert nomads as he went. Finally, Anakin tracked down the Tusken Raiders who had taken his mother. The Force guided a stealthy Skywalker to the tent Shmi was held in. Tragically, the tortured Shmi died in Anakin's arms.

Anakin fell to grief and anger. In an action felt as far away as Coruscant, and even by the spirit of Qui-Gon Jinn, Anakin slaughtered the entire Tusken tribe – men, women and children. Then Owen's swoop carried the heartbroken, angry, ashamed Anakin and his mother's body back to the Lars farm.

# SHMI SKYWALKER

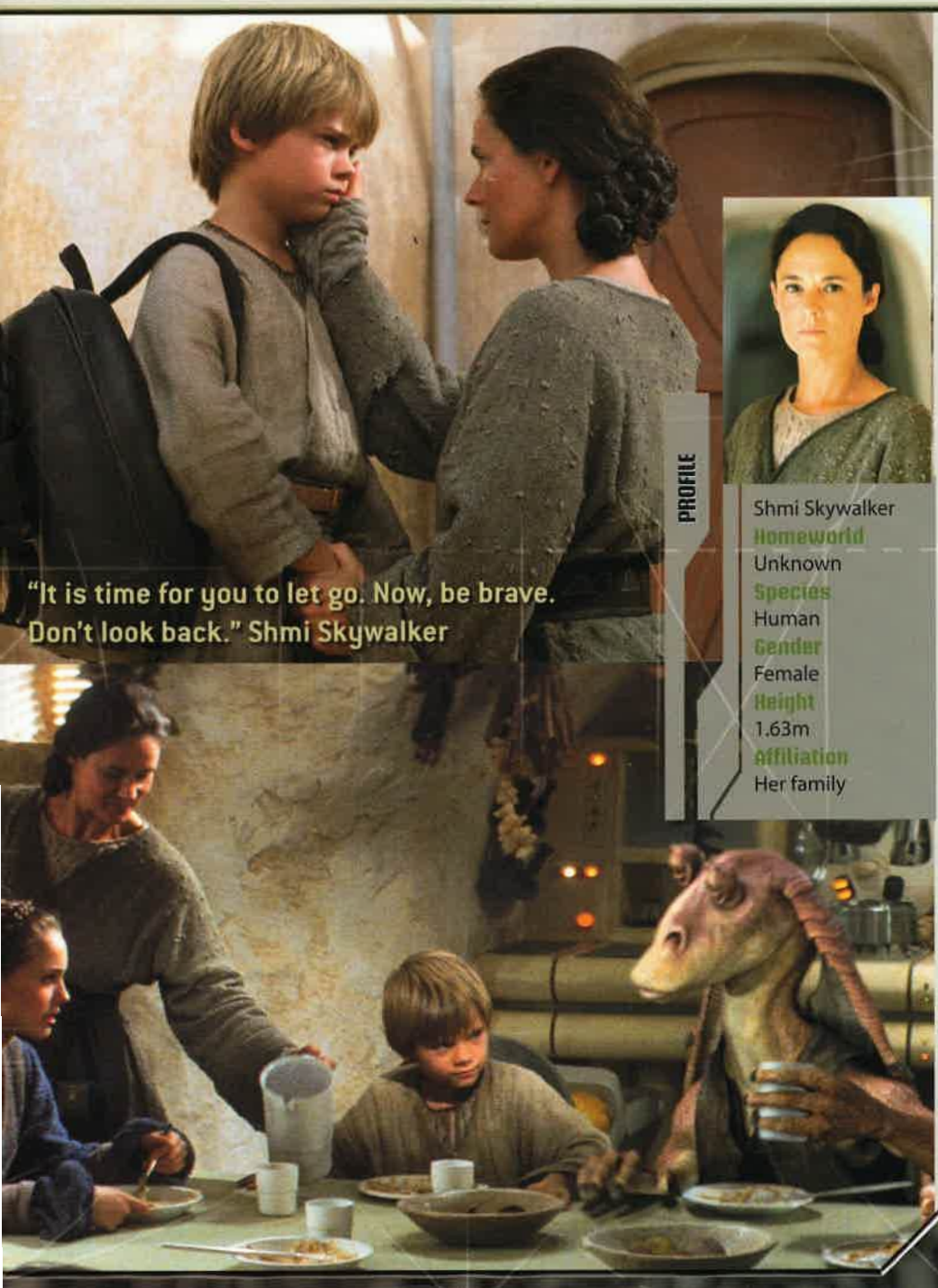
## PROUD MOTHER OF ANAKIN

**It was movingly typical of Shmi Skywalker that her dying words were not full of fear, anger or pain, but of love for her son and pride in the young man he had become. Her compassion would carry down through the ages to influence even her grandchildren.**

Shmi Skywalker saw much more of the harsh side of life than most beings could have hoped to survive. However, despite the drudgery of her existence as a slave on Tatooine, and despite the greed, hate, contempt and cruelty that surrounded her or was directed at her, Shmi seemed untouched by it all. Throughout her life, she sought and saw the positive, the beautiful and, where all else failed, the hope that lifted her and those around her above the horrors of their daily lives.

### Slavery

While some new-found friends were seated around her dining table in her well-kept but painfully poor slave-quarters in Mos Espa, Shmi Skywalker once bluntly but gently told Padmé Amidala that, for practical purposes, the Republic didn't exist out on the Rim. By the age of six, Shmi had already experienced the harsh realities of a galaxy slipping ever closer to Sith-engineered chaos. That was the fateful time that she and her parents had embarked on a tour of the Outer Rim Territories that was brought to an abrupt end by a pirate attack. The surviving passengers and crew were sold into slavery. Separated from her parents, the young Shmi became a house servant, and was passed from one master to the next, travelling to many systems. It was a harsh upbringing, and worse was to come. On becoming an adult – too old now for the 'easier' role of house servant – Shmi was demoted to cleaning duties.



"It is time for you to let go. Now, be brave. Don't look back." Shmi Skywalker



PROFILE

Shmi Skywalker

**Homeworld**
Unknown

**Species**
Human

**Gender**
Female

**Height**
1.63m

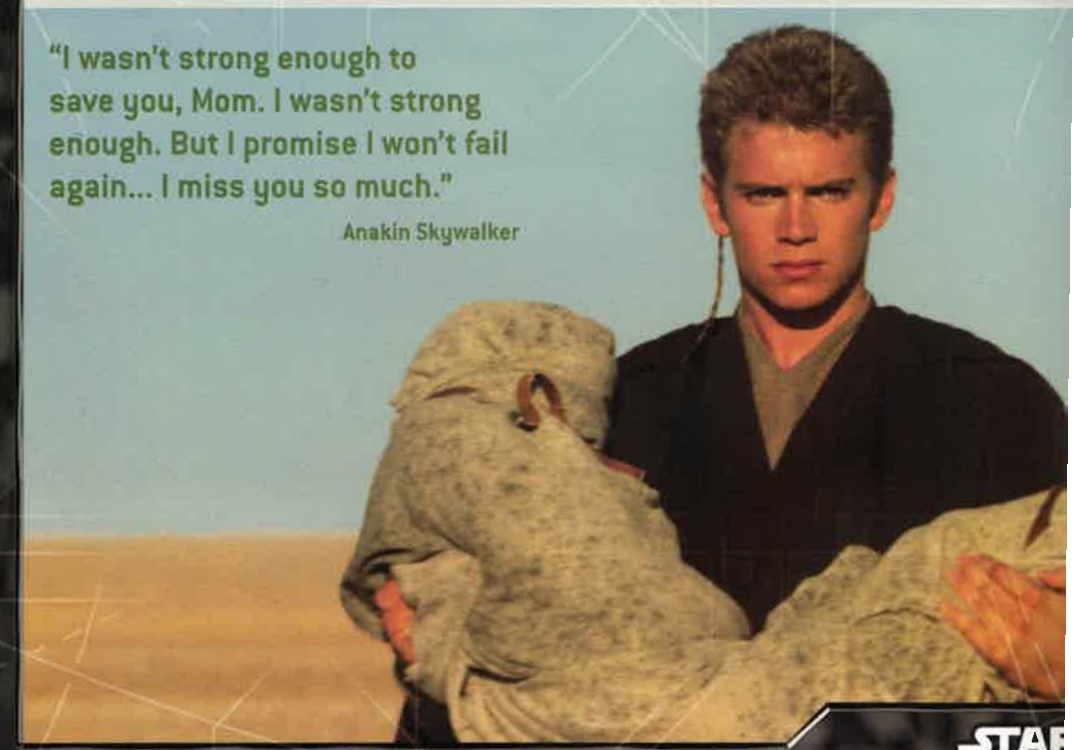
**Affiliation**
Her family

### New Skills, New Hope

Sold on again, moving from one cruel or dismissive owner to the next, her fate seemingly of no consequence, Shmi was eventually purchased by the kindly Pi-Lippa. She recognised Shmi's intelligence, and taught her a number of useful technical skills. Pi-Lippa had intended to free Shmi, but died before the process could be completed. Pi-Lippa's greedy relatives simply ignored her wishes and sold Shmi on once again. Something had changed, however. Shmi discovered that she was pregnant.

### Anakin

Shmi gave birth to a son whom she named Anakin. His conception was a mystery that Shmi kept to herself, and one that remains. He was a light in Shmi's life, and she lavished love on him from the moment he was born. Three years after the arrival of Anakin, he and Shmi were sold to Gardulla the Hutt and were moved to Tatooine. The crimelord was one of the worst masters Shmi had served, caring nothing at all for the health or safety of her slaves. As Anakin grew, he demonstrated an incredible gift for working with technology, and was able to build or repair pretty much anything. Unfortunately, he also showed an equally amazing gift as a pilot. His reactions were preternaturally fast, allowing him to pilot Podracers in the races beloved by Gardulla. Shmi


"I wasn't strong enough to save you, Mom. I wasn't strong enough. But I promise I won't fail again... I miss you so much."
Anakin Skywalker

## Legacy of Love

**While with Cliegg Lars and his son Owen, Shmi Skywalker kept a holo-journal. It detailed her life on the moisture farm, and contained many messages of love and hope for her son, Anakin. Many years after Shmi's death, Leia Organa Solo, Shmi's granddaughter, found the journal. Leia was able to see Shmi's love for someone that Leia knew only as Darth Vader. Shmi's story and her love for Anakin helped Leia come to terms with her heritage and, as her brother had already done, she found some measure of forgiveness for her father.**

hated the Podraces, but insisted on attending each one, convinced that so long as she watched him her son would be safe.

### Bets, Debts and Freedom

Shmi and Anakin were used to pay a debt, passing from Gardulla into the hands of the Toydarian junk dealer Watto. Life became slightly easier for Shmi and Anakin, though Watto still allowed Anakin to race. Shmi and Anakin had slightly better quarters, and Shmi was able to earn extra credits doing repairs. One day, Anakin brought home three strangers. One of them was Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn. He recognised Anakin's link with the Force. Though he stated that he had not come to free slaves, the opposite happened. Anakin had secretly built a Podracer and raced it in the Boonta Eve Classic, winning his freedom thanks to Master Jinn tricking Watto into a wager.

While the Toydarian released Anakin, he would not do the same for Shmi. Abruptly, she had to watch her son walk away to what she hoped would be a better life. After Anakin left, Watto fell on hard times. He eventually sold Shmi to Cliegg Lars. The two were in love, and Lars freed and married Shmi. Though she missed Anakin desperately, Shmi loved her new family. Her newfound happiness came to a terrible end when Shmi was kidnapped by Tusken Raiders. Tortured for weeks, her love for Anakin sustained Shmi long enough for him to find her. She died in her son's arms.

# ANAKIN SKYWALKER'S PODRACER

## THE FASTEST EVER

**When a Force-given gift for tinkering with all things technological met a passion for Podracing, the result was a blindingly fast Podracer built entirely from scavenged parts and piloted by the Chosen One of Jedi prophecy. Sebulba the Dug didn't really stand a chance...**

Slave children in the Outer Rim Territories grew up fast. Learning from his mother and blessed with a Force-given flair for technology, the young Anakin Skywalker grew up cleaning, repairing and rebuilding high technology. His passion, however, was Podracing. As Watto never visited the slave quarters, Anakin was slowly able to put together a Podracer in the back yard. None of the other slaves would ever reveal his secret – it was a harmless, minor act of rebellion they all approved of, carried out by a boy they all liked.

### Boonta Classic Winner

The engines that powered the Podracer were a pair of modified Radon-Ulzer 620c turbines. They did not come as a pair, however, with one being put together from parts Watto had declared as being useless, and the other having been bartered for from a passing Jawa sandcrawler. Rebuilding the engines from the ground up allowed Skywalker to make significant improvements. The entire wiring set-up was reworked around a re-routed fuel atomiser and distribution system. Multiple igniters placed throughout the engines meant that the fuel efficiency was phenomenal. Each engine became one huge afterburner, giving the comparatively small engines a performance spec that dwarfed those of far larger systems. Unfortunately, the engines were prone to flooding with fuel if Anakin pushed them too hard at the start of a race, as he discovered at the Boonta Eve Classic. The engines, held together in flight by energy binders, were linked to a simple cockpit where Anakin sat. From there, he could minutely manage the craft's every system, trimming its race performance to perfection.

## Anakin's Podracer PROFILE

**Type**
Hand-built repulsorcraft

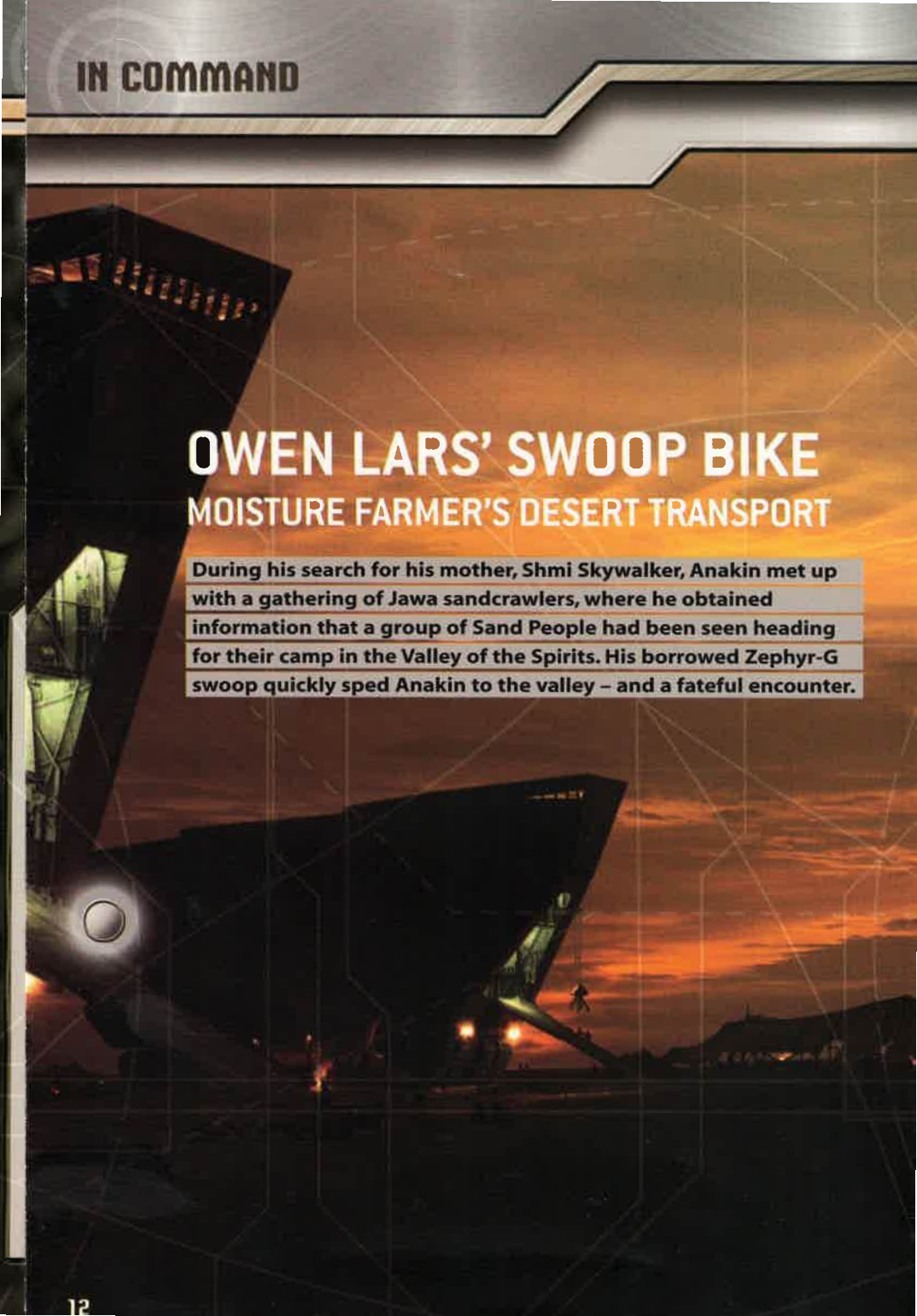
**Manufacturer**
Radon-Ulzer/Anakin Skywalker

**Propulsion**
2 x Radon-Ulzer 620c engines

**Maximum Speed**
947km/h

**Length**
Cockpit: 3.15 metres
Engines: 7 metres

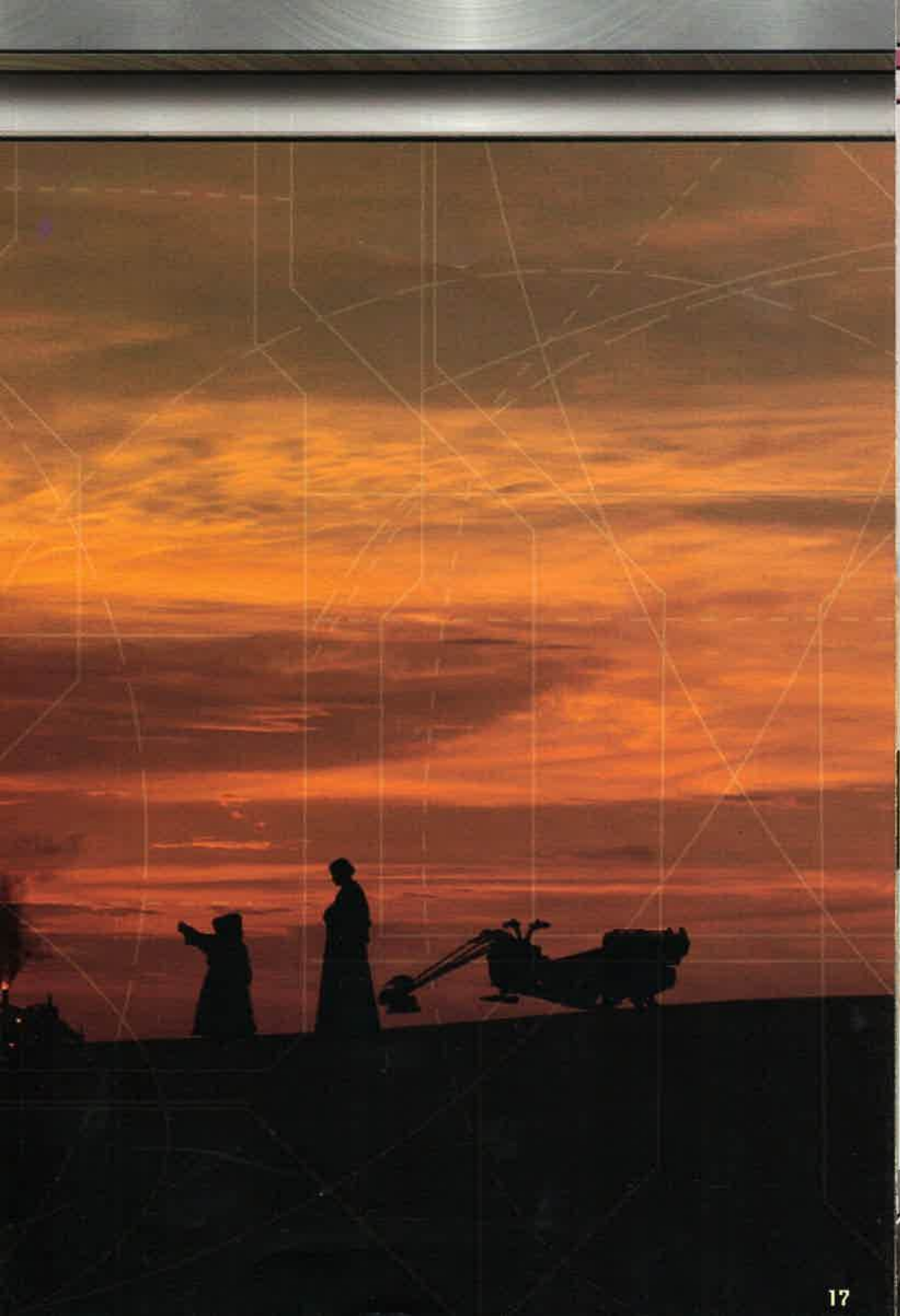
**Owners**
Anakin Skywalker (twice), Sebulba, Hekula



# OWEN LARS' SWOOP BIKE

## MOISTURE FARMER'S DESERT TRANSPORT

**During his search for his mother, Shmi Skywalker, Anakin met up with a gathering of Jawa sandcrawlers, where he obtained information that a group of Sand People had been seen heading for their camp in the Valley of the Spirits. His borrowed Zephyr-G swoop quickly sped Anakin to the valley – and a fateful encounter.**



# OWEN LARS' SWOOP BIKE

**Type**
Modified Zephyr-G Swoop

**Manufacturer**
Mobquet Swoops and Speeders

**Dimensions**
Length: 3.68 metres, Width: 0.66 metres, Height: 0.72 metres

**Max speed**
350km/h

**Max Altitude**
6 metres

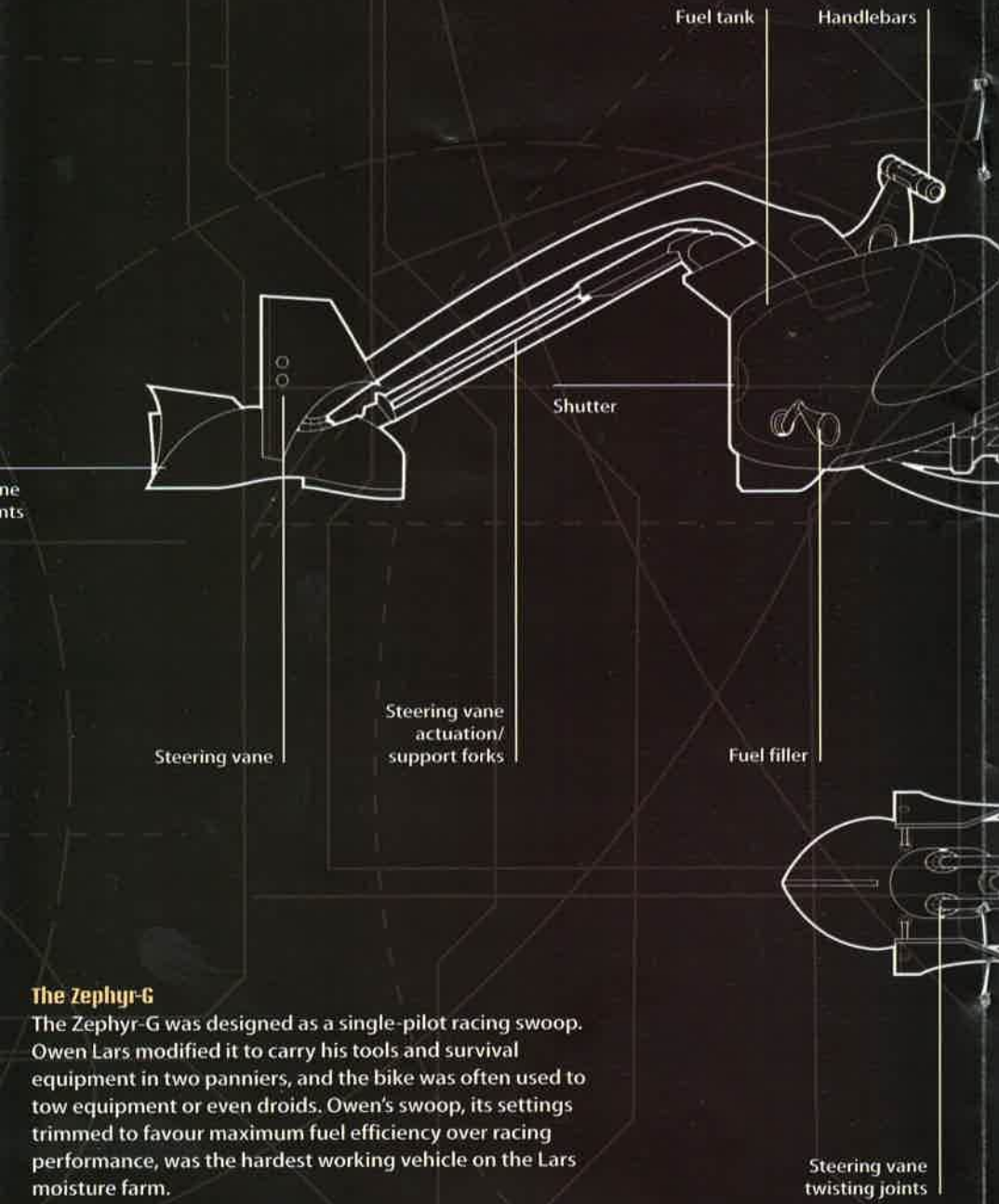
Steering van
twisting join

**Cargo**
2 x 50kg panniers, maximum lift capacity 200kg

**Range**
3000km

**Weapons**
None

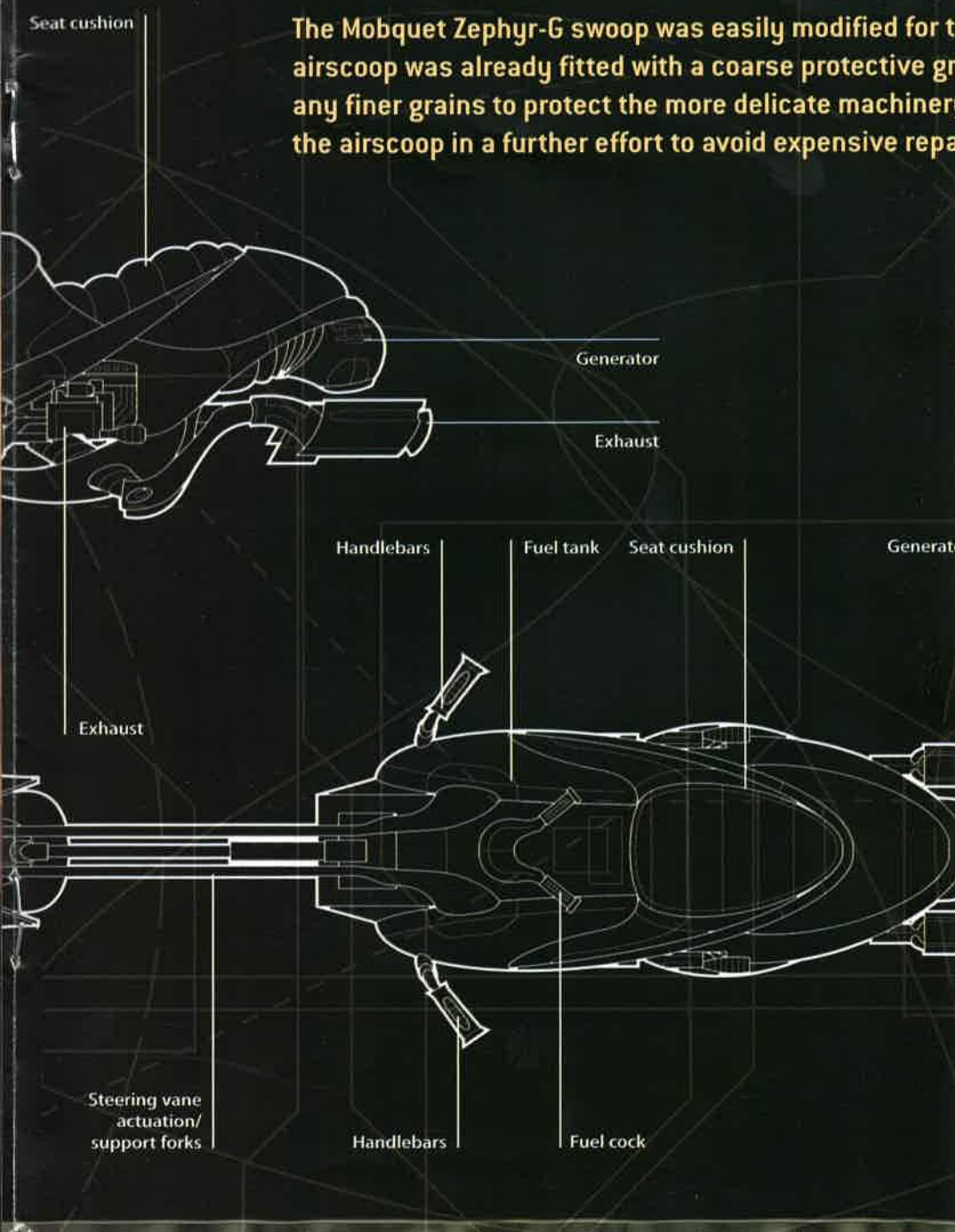
**Crew**
1 x pilot, 1 x passenger




### The Zephyr-G

The Zephyr-G was designed as a single-pilot racing swoop. Owen Lars modified it to carry his tools and survival equipment in two panniers, and the bike was often used to tow equipment or even droids. Owen's swoop, its settings trimmed to favour maximum fuel efficiency over racing performance, was the hardest working vehicle on the Lars moisture farm.

The Mobquet Zephyr-G swoop was easily modified for t
airscoop was already fitted with a coarse protective gr
any finer grains to protect the more delicate machiner
the airscoop in a further effort to avoid expensive repa



the harsh desert climate of Tatooine. The gaping maw of the forward
rille. Behind that, multiple layers of electrostatic filters quickly pulled away
ry of the swoop's engine. Owen fitted an additional sand grille to the front of
airs or the loss, however temporary, of the farm's 'workhorse'.

tor

Engine

# CLIEGG LARS

## TATOOINE MOISTURE FARMER

**In a life touched with tragedy, Cliegg Lars was twice a widower. He did what he could to prepare his son, Owen, for life as a moisture farmer on Tatooine, hoping Owen could be shielded from the pain he had suffered.**

As a young man, Cliegg Lars had rebelled against the prospect of life as a moisture farmer on Tatooine – which he saw leading to him becoming yet another in a long line of his family working the same stretch of desert, struggling with broken-down equipment to coax out enough profit to put food on the table. The young Cliegg's wanderlust took him offworld. He travelled all the way to the Core Worlds, settling on the planet Ator. There he met and married a young woman called Aika. The two had a son they named Owen. Struggling to provide for his family, living in cramped quarters in the bustling urban sprawl, Cliegg began to understand the lessons in responsibility his father had tried to teach him. Even as his thoughts turned to Tatooine, Aika died. Swallowing his pride, Cliegg took Owen and went home. Making peace with his family, Cliegg was soon running the Lars farm.

### Falling in Love

On a trip to Mos Espa for supplies, Cliegg met Shmi Skywalker. Love blossomed, and Cliegg was able to buy Shmi's freedom from her reluctant owner, Watto. Shmi and Cliegg were very happy together, though Shmi missed and often spoke of her son, Anakin, who had left to become a Jedi. All was well for many years until one awful morning when Shmi was taken by Tusken Raiders. Cliegg organised a rescue party, but they were ambushed – 26 of the 30 were killed, and Cliegg lost his right leg in a trap, forcing him to use a floating power chair to get about. A month later, when Cliegg had given up on ever seeing Shmi again, Anakin returned. He found the Tuskens, but was too late to save Shmi. Not long after she was buried, Cliegg himself died of his injuries and a broken heart.

## Family values

**Cliegg Lars sought to instil the importance of family loyalty, hard work and self-discipline in Owen. He didn't want his son to discover how harsh life could be in the galaxy beyond Tatooine. Cliegg was delighted when Owen met Beru Whitesun, a girl with no desire to leave the desert planet.**

PROFILE

Cliegg Lars

**Homeworld**
Tatooine

**Species**
Human

**Height**
1.83m

**Weapon**
Blaster rifle

# TATOOINE

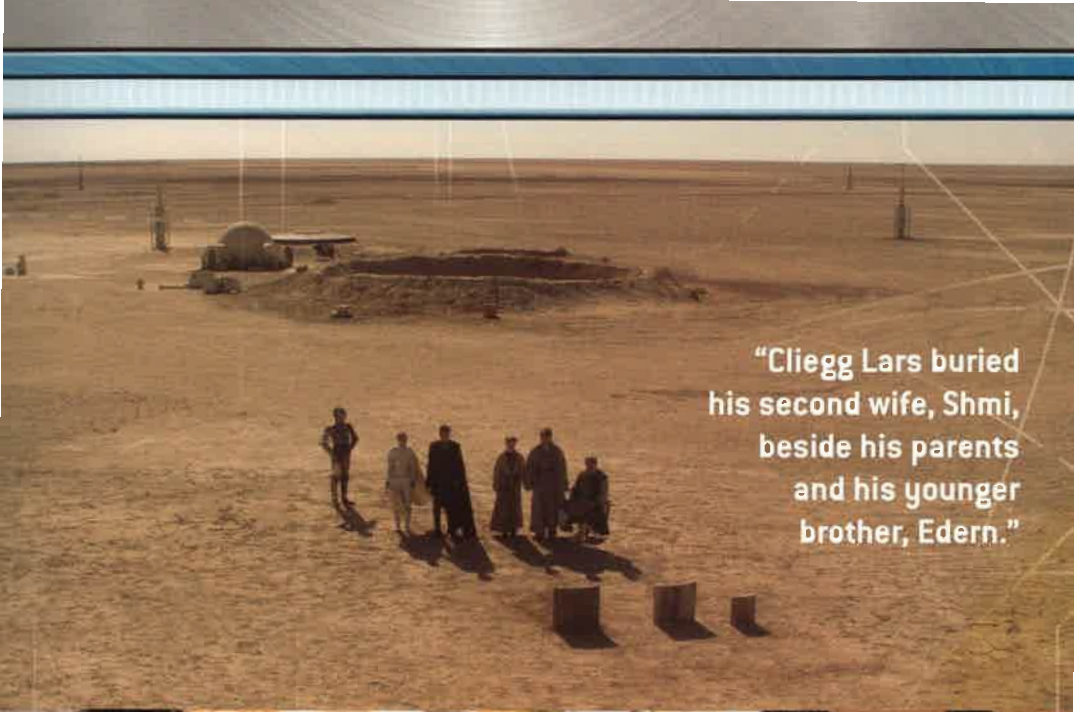
## THE LARS MOISTURE FARM

**Life on Tatooine is a difficult prospect at the best of times. On the Great Chott Salt Flat near the Jundland Wastes, a small community of moisture farmers eked out a knife-edge existence. One of the larger farms was the Lars homestead.**

The Lars moisture farm had been in the family for generations before, on the deaths of his parents, Gredda and Lef, it passed to Cliegg Lars. Cliegg, who had recently returned from the Core Worlds with a son, Owen, threw himself into the farming life with a vengeance. He added to the farm, including hand-building from pourstone a main entry dome. With the nearest town, Anchorhead, too far away to help, Cliegg worked hard to unite the disparate farmers into a single community who banded together to barter goods and otherwise support each other. This became all the more important when increased activity and raids by Sand People meant the Great Chott farming community had to come together for mutual security.

### The Homestead

The Lars farm had around 63 GX-8 moisture vaporators spread out through its territory. These sand-blasted, faltering devices extracted about 1.5 litres of water every day from the seemingly arid air of the Tatooine deserts. At the homestead, the water was held in an underground storage tank where it could be used by the family, in their hydroponic garden, or for trade. The tank was under two vaporators and the main vaporator system binary brain unit in the middle of the open central pit area of the homestead, off which all the other rooms could be reached. The family home was set underground to provide as much protection as possible from the heat of the day, the freezing cold of the nights, and the harsh, abrasive winds that swept across the salt flats.



"Cliegg Lars buried his second wife, Shmi, beside his parents and his younger brother, Edern."

When his parents died not long after his return to Tatooine, Cliegg Lars made a number of additions to the farm, including the entrance dome he built by hand.

## Did You Know...?

**The subterranean courtyard of the Lars homestead is actually in the Hotel Sidi Driss in Matmata, Tunisia. The exterior is on the other side of the country at Nefta. Many of the set elements, such as the vaporators, were left behind and are tourist spots to this day.**

### Home

The walls of the main pit of the Lars homestead were lined with hard-packed soil which was laced with a magnetic ore. This gave increased insulation both by night and by day. The open area was kept as free as possible from drifting sand by an electrostatic repeller. Heavy sand or gravel storms invariably meant considerable cleaning up was needed when the weather calmed down. Electrostatic repellers and sandtraps were everywhere around the home complex, starting at the entrance dome Cliegg Lars had built, which also featured an external security access keypad and a message centre. The only other open crater was the vehicle pit that held any repulsorlift craft able to lift itself up onto the surface. The garage, protected by a hinged dome, led off that, and had a lift that could raise the family speeder up to the desert floor. The hydroponic chamber that held the vital crops the family sought to grow for their own use and to trade, dominated efforts at the homestead. However, the centre of family life was the modest dining room and galley kitchen. The Lars family argued, laughed, planned and mourned together around the table for generations. Elsewhere, small sleeping quarters and even the store rooms afforded moments of privacy.

### History

After the death of Cliegg Lars, Owen and Beru ran the farm with their adopted son, Luke Skywalker. When Owen and Beru were murdered by Darth Vader's troops, the farm was badly damaged by fire. Luke passed it on to an alien spice smuggler called Throgg, but the farm was eventually bought by Jula Darklighter to prevent his grasping brother from casting out Throgg.

# GEORGE LUCAS
## THANK THE MAKER

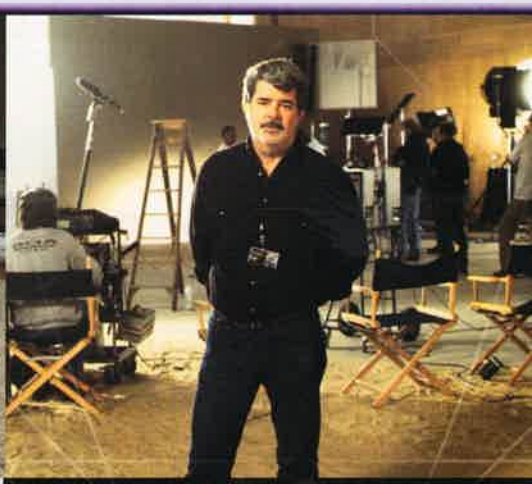
**Though best known for the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* film series, George Lucas' lasting legacy includes his enormous contribution to the way modern films are made – a contribution that is sometimes underestimated by the public at large.**

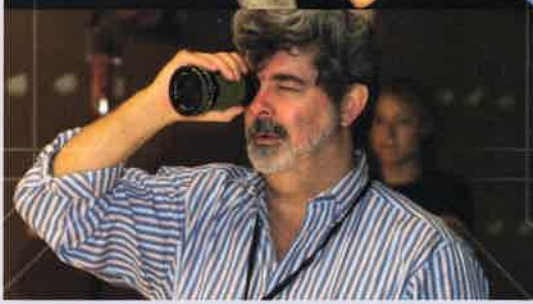
Born on 14 May 1944, George Walton Lucas Jr. attended Thomas Downey High School. His passion in life was cars, and his dream was to be a racing driver. However, on 12 June 1962, Lucas' car was clipped from behind as he returned home and the resulting crash nearly cost him his life.

During a long recovery, George decided to go to college after all, and enrolled at Modesto Junior College. It was during this time that he developed his second enduring passion – filmmaking.

### Experimental

Already an excellent photographer, Lucas was drawn to the avant-garde and experimental filmmakers whose films were shown in San Francisco coffee houses and other out-of-the-way improvised venues. On transferring to the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles, Lucas continued to be absorbed by expressionistic filmmaking. After graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in film in 1967, Lucas re-enrolled that same year as a graduate student, this time in film production. While engaged in his post-graduate studies he directed a prizewinning short film called *Electronic Labyrinth: THX 1138 4EB* that got him a scholarship from Warner Bros. This paired him with Francis Ford





## Did you know...?

**Lucas' first full-length feature film was *THX 1138*, released in 1971, based on his prize-winning student film. His second, released in 1973, was the hugely successful *American Graffiti*, the success of which opened the doors for him to begin work on the *Star Wars* saga.**

Coppola, with whom he would found American Zeotrope. From there, *Star Wars* was just a few hard years away.

### Changing Times

The financial success of *Star Wars* allowed Lucas to found a number of companies that remain at the forefront of filmmaking to this day. Industrial Light and Magic continues to be the most respected visual effects company in the world, while Skywalker Sound has achieved the same standard in its field. The now world-famous Pixar studio has its origins as part of the Lucasfilm family, before being sold to Steve Jobs in 1986. George Lucas is responsible for the development of the now-industry-standard THX sound system for cinemas worldwide, as well as a number of post-production technologies. Lucas' influence continues apace, with *Attack of the Clones* being the first film ever to be shot entirely digitally.

# OWEN LARS' SWOOP BIKE

## CREATING THE ZEPHYR-G SWOOP

### MAKING THE ZEPHYR-G FLY

**1** For the Tatooine scenes in the Prequel Trilogy, George Lucas and the team returned to Tunisia in 2000 to the original locations used when shooting *A New Hope* in 1976.

**2** In 1976, George Lucas and Anthony Daniels in costume as C-3PO discuss a scene while shooting the exterior of the Lars homestead at the salt flats near Nefta, Tunisia.

**5** Concept artist Jay Shuster tinkered with designs for Owen's swoop, always intended to have been a piece of adapted equipment.

**6** Top view of Owen's swoop bike. The digital model was used for distant shots, or for high-speed movement.

**To bring Owen Lars' swoop bike to life for Episode II, a mixture of established techniques and new digital technology were used. The mix of old and new continued when the new swoop bike prop was taken to some familiar shooting locations.**

**3** Actress Bonnie Piesse (Beru) and director George Lucas. The interior of the Hotel Sidi Driss was almost exactly the same, with only a little digital work needed to recreate the Lars family farm.

**4** The interior of the Lars kitchen and the garage had to be recreated at Fox Studios Australia. Above, ILM's Don Bies and actor Anthony Daniels (C-3PO) prepare for blue-screen filming.

**7** Old-fashioned large-scale models and puppetry had been used for filming the Imperial speeder bikes for *Return of the Jedi*.

**8** Owen's swoop was also built as a full-sized prop to be used for location shooting such as this exterior shot of Tunisia/Tatooine.

# DID YOU KNOW?



## 1 What is this natural structure on Tatooine?

## 2 Which droid is this?





## 3 Who was Cliegg Whitsun?

**ANSWERS:**

**1.** I Created digitally for Episode II, this is the B'Tharzoshe Bridge, a religious site for the Sand People, and the marker for the entrance to the Valley of the Spirits.

**2.** This is R5-D4, a bitter, jealous little droid who was sabotaged by R2-D2 aboard the Jawa sandcrawler so Artoo would appear the better choice to a new master from whom he could later escape. R5-D4 was later purchased by a Rebel agent in Mos Eisley and refitted for espionage.

**3.** Cliegg Whitsun appeared in the early drafts of the *Star Wars* story. In a rough draft of the script dating from 1974, he is a young, blonde Alderaanian.

# Q

## Queen's Monument

Location
Expanded Universe

One of Boss Nass's great projects in the years following the combined victory of Gungans and Naboo over the Trade Federation was the establishing of a Gungan colony on the moon of Ohma-D'un. The first city there was named New Otoh Gunga, and it featured the Queen's Monument, built to honour her efforts in helping to establish the colony. The structure featured a double stack of public space bubbles, topped off by a smaller bubble that glowed with purple light, symbolising the peace between the Naboo and Gungans. Five smaller lights rotated within the main bubble, representing Amidala's strength, wisdom, beauty, compassion and leadership.

## Quell

Location
Expanded Universe

First planet of the Quell system in the Outer Rim Territories. During the Clone Wars, a battle was fought in the upper atmosphere of Quell. Jedi General Aayla Secura's fleet was attacked and all but destroyed by three *Munificent*-class frigates. Jedi Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan, Ahsoka, went to her rescue, but all were trapped aboard a badly damaged cruiser that accidentally went into hyperspace, later crashing on a distant alien world.

## Queyta

Location
Expanded Universe

A volcanic, unstable planet in the Danjar sector of the Outer Rim Territories. A separatist biological weapon research facility was based on the planet. Obi-Wan Kenobi and four Jedi Masters travelled there to obtain the antidote to a chemical weapon used against the Gungan colonists of Ohma-D'un during the Clone Wars. Asajj Ventress and the bounty hunter Durge killed the other Jedi, but Obi-Wan was able to escape with the antidote.

## Quillarat

Creature
Expanded Universe

A creature native to Kashyyyk, the fast, dangerous quillarat formed part of a Wookiee courting ritual. Male Wookiees were expected to catch one of the elusive creatures by hand and present the still-living rodent to their betrothed just ahead of their wedding to demonstrate their love for their wife-to-be. If the female Wookiee ate the quillarat, it demonstrated the same love.

## Quulaar

Equipment
Expanded Universe

The quulaar was an item of utility clothing used by Wookiees to carry Wookiee infants too young still to climb on their own or, on occasion, bulky loads. The name translates as baby-sack. Han Solo and his friend Jarik were carried in them when they visited Kashyyyk.

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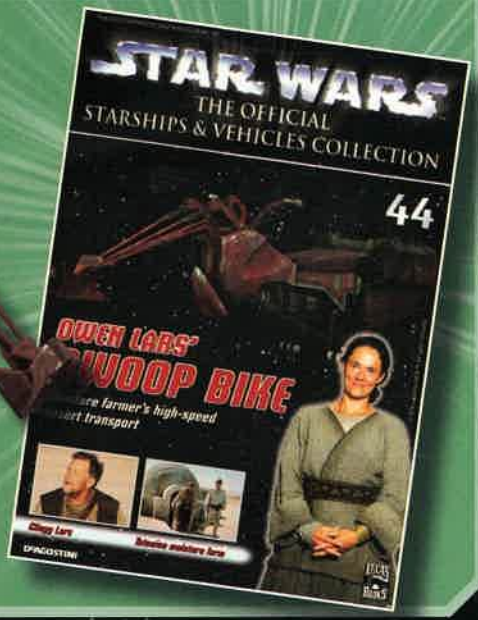
SWOOP BIKE

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